

a.) Remarks

In the Advisory Action dated September 11, 2008, the Examiner stated that

In a broad sense, atopic dermatitis is a type of or results in a wound (i.e., eczema), so healing a wound induced by atopic dermatitis by oral administration of hydroxyproline would qualify as treating atopic dermatitis itself.

Respectfully submitted, this statement is off point: the claims do not recite treating wounds, they recite treating atopic dermatitis. In that regard, it is well-understood that, eczema is not merely a “wound”; rather, eczema is characterized clinically by

1. Pruritus<sup>1</sup> and scratching
2. Course marked by exacerbations and remissions
3. Lesions typical of eczematous dermatitis
4. Personal or family history of atopy (asthma, allergic rhinitis, food allergies or eczema)
5. Clinical course lasting longer than 6 weeks.

*Harrisons Principles of Internal Medicine*, 15th ed., 309.

Accordingly, even if the Examiner is correct that treating wounds induced by atopic dermatitis is suggested, the pending claims also require treating pruritus, which is certainly not taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

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<sup>1</sup> For the Examiner's convenience and to complete the record, pruritus is localized or generalized itching due to irritation of sensory nerve endings. *Merriam Webster's Medical Desk Dictionary* (1996) 662.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 13 and 15-29 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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